AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0028] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0028] An aperture angle of the transmitted light beam which determines the divergence of the transmitted light beam in the direction of divergence can preferably be selected, among other things, in dependence on the spacing between the light transmitter and the restriction device, since this spacing, together with the aperture angle, forms the width of the transmitted light beam at the restriction device. It is preferred for an aperture angle of the transmitted light beam to be selected such that a width of the transmitted light beam in a pre-determined direction orthogonal to the transmitted light path directly in front of the restriction device is larger by a factor of 10 than a corresponding width of the received light beam directly at the restriction device. (See Figure 2A where a>10b.) Such a large divergence of the transmitted light beam relative to that of the received light beam allows a particularly simple adjustment and a high functional reliability, in particular if the pre-determined direction is arranged tangentially to the track of the component after the fitting to the component.

Please replace Paragraph [0029] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0029] When the aperture angle of the transmitted light beam is pre-determined independently of the special features of the component, and in particular of its movement, a comparatively large amount of light of the light transmitter can remain unused during the total operation due to the divergence of the transmitted light beam.

It is therefore preferred for an aperture angle of the transmitted light beam to be selected such that a width of the transmitted light beam directly at the restriction device is larger in a pre-determined direction orthogonal to the transmitted light path than a mean movement amplitude of the transmitted light beam to be expected caused by a relative movement of the light transmitter and the restriction direction directly at the restriction device. (See Figure 2B where $a>c$.) In this manner, with a given functional reliability, as much light as possible of the light transmitter is also actually used for the monitoring of the protected zone on the operation of the protective apparatus.

Please replace Paragraph [0050] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0050] Fig. 2 is a schematic, partly side view of a bending press with a protective apparatus in accordance with a first preferred embodiment of the invention, and Figures 2A and 2B contain labeled dimensions of features shown in Figure 2;

Please replace Paragraph [0081] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0081] To obtain high functional reliability, the optical transmission/reception system 72 is made such that an aperture angle [[□]] α of the transmitted light beam 76 is so large that its width in a plane parallel to the reflecting element 68 is approximately ten times larger directly at the reflecting element 68 than the extent of the reflecting element 68 in this direction. The widths of the part beam 78 and of the received light beam 80 directly at the reflecting element are therefore – defined by the corresponding extent of the reflecting element – smaller by a factor of approximately 10 than the width of the transmitted light beam 76 at this point.

Please replace Paragraph [0085] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0085] The cylindrical lens 86 and the aspheric lens 88 are made and arranged such that light of the laser diode 69 is shaped to form a transmitted light beam 98 which is divergent in two directions orthogonal to one another and has an aperture angle α parallel to the direction of movement B of the bending tool 32 which is smaller than a further aperture angle ~~α~~ α' in a direction orthogonal to the direction of movement B.

Please replace Paragraph [0092] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0092] For the monitoring, in particular during the movement of the bending tool 32, light of the laser diode 69 is beamed by the cylindrical lens 86 and by the aspheric lens 88 into the divergent transmitted light beam 98 which is less divergent in a direction parallel to the direction of movement B than in a direction perpendicular thereto (cf. Figs. 4 and 5). The aperture angle [[□]]α can amount to, for example, 1° and the aperture angle [[□']] α' to, for example, approximately 0° at a spacing of the restriction device from the transmission/reception unit 84 of, for example, 2 m.